Case 3:10-cv-0

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DIST. OF TX FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

**BRUCE DANIELSON** 

VS.

COLLECTO, INC., PAUL E. LEARY, JR., MICHAEL CRUSEMANN, HANS WERNER SCHERER, PAUL E. LEARY, SR.

DEPUTY CLERK DEPUTY CLERK CIVIL ACTION NO. 3883

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED** 

■10CV-462-N

## **COMPLAINT**

# **JURISDICTION**

1. The jurisdiction of this Court attains pursuant to 15 U.S.C.§1692 et seq, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA") for which jurisdiction is proper in this Court. 15 U.S.C.§1692k(d) and state law claims supplemental thereto. Venue lies in the Northern District of Texas since Plaintiff's claims arose from acts of the Defendant perpetrated therein.

#### **PARTIES**

- 2. Plaintiff, Bruce Danielson, is a natural person and is a "consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C.§1692a(3) of the FDCPA. Plaintiff is a resident and citizen of the State of Texas.
- 3. Defendant, Collecto, Inc. is a corporation organized under the laws of the state of Massachusetts. whose charter has been withdrawn, forfeited or voluntarily dissolved. Pursuant to Texas Business Corporation Act Ann. art. 8.10, service is proper upon the Secretary of the State of Texas, 1019 Brazos Street, Austin, Texas 78701. The Secretary of State of Texas will serve Collecto, Inc. at the address on file with the Secretary of State's records, 700 Longwater Drive, Norwell, MA 02061.
  - 4. The charter of Collecto, Inc. was forfeited on July 24, 2009.
- 5. Paul E. Leary, Jr., a Director of Collecto, Inc. is an individual, believed to reside in Massachusetts and may be served with process at 700 Longwater Drive, Norwell, MA 02061. Since liability was incurred while the charter was forfeited, Paul E. Leary is liable for the debt individually per Texas Tax Code §s171.252 and 171.255.

- 6. Michael Crusemann, a Director of Collecto, Inc. is an individual, believed to reside in Massachusetts and may be served with process at 700 Longwater Drive, Norwell, MA 02061. Since liability was incurred while the charter was forfeited, Paul E. Leary is liable for the debt individually per Texas Tax Code §s171.252 and 171.255.
- 7. Hans Werner Scherer, a Director of Collecto, Inc. is an individual, believed to reside in Massachusetts and may be served with process at 700 Longwater Drive, Norwell, MA 02061. Since liability was incurred while the charter was forfeited, Paul E. Leary is liable for the debt individually per Texas Tax Code §s171.252 and 171.255
- 8. Paul Leary, Sr., a Director of Collecto, Inc. is an individual, believed to reside in Massachusetts and may be served with process at 700 Longwater Drive, Norwell, MA 02061. Since liability was incurred while the charter was forfeited, Paul E. Leary is liable for the debt individually per Texas Tax Code §\$171.252 and 171.255

## **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 9. Plaintiff is an individual consumer as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(3).
- 10. Defendant Collecto, Inc. is a debt collector as defined by the FDCPA and Texas Debt Collection Practices Act.
- 11. Sometime on or about April, 2009, Defendant's representatives began calling Plaintiff at both his home and place of business in attempts to collect a debt.
- 12. Although Plaintiff disputed the debt both in person and in writing, Defendant continued attempting to collect.
- 13. Plaintiff requested (May 2009) both in person and in writing that Defendant cease calling him both at home and office.
- 14. As recent as the filing of this lawsuit, Defendant's representatives continue to call Plaintiff at both his home and office number, despite both written and verbal requests to cease calling.

- 15. Defendant has failed to respond to written requests for verification.
- 16. Defendant does not owe the debt which Defendant is attempting to collect.

#### **CAUSES OF ACTION**

#### COUNT I

- 17. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 16 above as if fully set out herein.
- 18. Collecto, Inc. is a debt collector as defined by the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C.§1692a(6).
- 19. Defendant has violated 15 U.S.C. §1692g by failing to respond to Plaintiff's request for validation of the debt.
- 20. Defendant has violated 15 U.S.C.§1692c by continuing to call Plaintiff after being requested to cease communication.
- 21. Defendant has violated 15 U.S.C.§1692e(2)(A) by falsely representing the character, amount, or legal status of a debt.

#### **COUNT II**

- 22. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 21 above as if fully set out herein.
- 23. In violation of Tex. Fin.Code §392.301(a)(8) the Defendant threatened to take (and/or did take) an action prohibited by law.

#### **COUNT III**

- 24. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 23 above.
- 25. Pursuant to Tex. Fin.Code §392.404, the Defendant's violations of the Texas Debt Collection Practices Act also constitute a deceptive trade practice Subchapter E, Chapter 17, Business and Commerce Code ("DTPA"), and is actionable under that chapter.
  - 26. The foregoing acts and omissions were undertaken on behalf of the Defendant by its

respective officers, agents, or employees acting at all times relevant hereto within the scope of that relationship.

- 27. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendant were undertaken wilfully, intentionally, knowingly, and/or in gross disregard of the rights of the Plaintiff.
- 28. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendant were undertaken indiscriminately and persistently, as part of its regular and routine collection efforts, and without regard to or consideration of the identity of rights of the Plaintiff.
- 29. By reason of the allegations in this petition, the Texas Debt Collection Practices Act and Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, , Plaintiff is entitled to recover attorney's fees in a sum that is reasonable in relation to the amount of work expended for which Plaintiff sues herein. The attorney whose name is subscribed to this pleading has been employed to assist Plaintiff in the prosecution of this action.

### **Prayer for Relief**

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that this Court:

- 1. Declare that Defendant's actions violate the FDCPA and TDCPA.
- 2. Enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendant for statutory damages, actual damages, costs, and reasonable attorney fees as provided by 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a) and/or Tex. Fin.Code Ann. §392.403.
- 3. Grant such further relief as deemed just.

TRIAL BY JURY IS DEMANDED.

Respectfully submitted,

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SJS 44 (TXND Rev. 2/10)

# **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Bruce Danielson			DEFENDANTS Collecto, Inc., Paul E. Leary, Jr., Michael Crusemann, Hans Werner Scherer, Paul Leary, Sr.		
(E	e Address, and Telephone Number)  Monticello Ave., Buile 5006. DISTRICT OF Monticello Ave., Buile 5006. DISTRICT OF MORTHERN DISTRICT OF MORTHERN DISTRICT OF MORTHERN DISTRICT OF MORTHERN DISTRICT OF	OURT TEXAS	,	f First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES OF CONDEMNATION CASES, USINGOLVED.	te the location of the
11. BASIS OF JURISI  1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	DICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  2 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	'	TIZENSHIP OF P (For Diversity Cases Only) en of This State	TF DEF  1	
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity  (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		en of Another State	of Business In A	Principal Place
IV. NATURE OF SUI	T (Place on "Y" in One Part O. 1.)	For	reign Country		
CONTRACT	T (Place an "X" in One Box Only) TORTS	FC	ORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHERS MADE TO THE STATE OF THE
110 Insurance   120 Marine   130 Miller Act   140 Negotiable Instrument   150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgmen   151 Medicare Act   152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)   153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits   160 Stockholders' Suits   190 Other Contract   195 Contract Product Liability   196 Franchise   REAL PROPERTY   210 Land Condemnation   220 Foreclosure   230 Rent Lease & Ejectment   240 Torts to Land   245 Tort Product Liability   290 All Other Real Property	Slander	RY	0 Agriculture 0 Other Food & Drug 5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Liquor Laws 0 R.R. & Truck 0 Airline Regs. 0 Occupational Safety/Health 0 Other  LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 0 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act 0 Railway Labor Act 0 Other Labor Litigation 1 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act  IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application 3 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee 5 Other Immigration Actions	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 ■ PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 840 Trademark ■ 840 Trademark ■ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g)) ■ FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	400 State Reapportionment   410 Antitrust   430 Banks and Banking   450 Commerce   460 Deportation   470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations   480 Consumer Credit   490 Cable/Sat TV   810 Selective Service   850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange   875 Customer Challenge   12 USC 3410   890 Other Statutory Actions   891 Agricultural Acts   892 Economic Stabilization Act   895 Freedom of Information   Act   900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice   950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
▼1 Original □ 2 F	Defendants continued calling Plair  CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23  SE(S) (See instructions)  SED:	Reoperation Reoper	pened sanother (speci	al statutes unless diversity): er receiving written requ	est to cease if demanded in complaint:
DATE & 3-	JUDGE ——	ATTORNEY	OF RECORD	row Couch	ell
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